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In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for the manufacturing of an electrode, comprising applying a solution of a precursor for the pyrolytic formation of a tin-containing coating to a substrate of a valve metal, followed by the execution of a thermal treatment, wherein the precursor solution comprises a ~~non-stoichiometric compound of the formula $Sn(OH)_{2+x}Cl_{2-x}nH_2O$~~ stannic hydroxychloride species selected from a non-stoichiometric compound expressed by the formula $Sn(OH)_{2+x}Cl_{2-x}nH_2O$ and a compound expressed by the formula $SnO(H_2O)_0R_{2-x}Cl_x$ R being an organic substituent.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the Cl:Sn molar ratio is between 1 and 1.9.

Cancel **Claims 3** and **4**.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein R is (CH_3COO-).

Claim 6 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising a precursor of at least one noble metal.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein said precursor of at least one noble metal is a chlorinated precursor of iridium or ruthenium.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein said chlorinated precursor of iridium is H_2IrCl_6.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the valve metal is titanium or titanium alloy with a ceramic pre-layer.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein the ceramic pre-layer comprises titanium dioxide.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said application of the solution is effected in multiple coats, each followed by a thermal treatment.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said thermal treatment is a pyrolysis at a temperature between 350 and 800°C, preceded by a drying at a temperature between 80 and 200°C.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) An anode provided with an electrocatalytic coating comprising tin, preferably tetravalent and in form of mixed oxide, prepared by the method of Claim 1.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The anode of Claim 13, prepared by the method of Claim 6, wherein said coating has electrocatalytic properties toward the chlorine evolution reaction and said at least one noble metal is ruthenium.

Claim 15 (withdrawn) The anode of Claim 13, prepared by the method of Claim 6, wherein said coating has electrocatalytic properties toward oxygen evolution reaction and said at least one noble metal is iridium.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) A solution of a precursor for the pyrolytic formation of a tin-containing coating, comprising a stannic hydroxychloride species selected from a non-stoichiometric compound of the formula $SnO(H_2O)n\ R_{2-x}Cl_x$, wherein R is an organic substituent.

Claim 17 (withdrawn) The solution of Claim 16 wherein the Cl:Sn molar ratio is comprised between 1 and 1.9.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) The solution of Claim 16 wherein R is acetic group.

Claim 19 (withdrawn) The solution of Claim 16 further comprising a precursor of at least one noble metal.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) The solution of Claim 19 wherein said precursor of at least one noble metal is a chlorinated pre-cursor of iridium or ruthenium.

Claim 21 (withdrawn) The solution of Claim 20 wherein said chlorinated precursor of iridium is H_2IrCl_6.

Claim 22 (withdrawn) A method for the manufacturing of a precursor solution for the pyrolytic formation of a tin-containing coating comprising adding hydrogen peroxide to a stannous chloride solution, optionally under temperature and redox potential control.

Claim 23 (withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein the Cl:Sn ratio in the solution is decreased by subsequent reduction of metallic tin and further addition of hydrogen peroxide, optionally under temperature and redox potential control.

Claims 24 and 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the metal is titanium or titanium alloy.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said thermal treatment is a pyrolysis at a temperature between 350 and 800°C.